

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Canceled)

1 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and
2 second controller devices are located in geographically remote locations relative to each other.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and
2 second controller devices communicate over a second data communication network different
3 from the data communication network.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the server
2 communicates with the first controller device over the data communication network.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the second
2 controller communicates with the first client device over the data communication network.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the second
2 controller device communicates with the storage system over a storage area network.

1 30. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering streaming data content to a
2 client device from two or more controller devices over a data communication network in
3 response to a request for the data content from the client device, wherein the data content
4 includes two or more blocks of data stored on a storage system, the method comprising:
5 receiving, by a server, a request from a first client device over the data
6 communication network, the request identifying streaming data content stored on a storage
7 system;

transmitting a data request message from the server to a first controller device associated with the storage system, the data request message identifying the first client device and the data content requested by the first client device;

retrieving a first block of the data content from the storage system by the first controller device;

sending a second data request message from the first controller device to a second controller device associated with the storage system, the second data request message identifying the first client device and a second block of the data content;

retrieving the second block of the data content from the storage system by the second controller device;

transferring the first block of data ~~directly~~ to the first client device from the first controller device;

sending a synchronization message from the first controller device to the second controller device; and

in response to the synchronization message, transferring the second block of data ~~directly~~ to the first client device from the second controller device over a communication path that does not include the first controller device.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the steps of retrieving the data blocks, each include reading the data block from the storage system and applying one of an encryption and a decompression algorithm to the read data block.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second controller devices are communicably coupled over a bus.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second controller devices are communicably coupled over a storage area network.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second controller devices are communicably coupled to the storage system over a storage area network.

1 35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices transfer the first and second data blocks over the data communication network
3 at a faster rate than the rate at which the first and second data blocks are retrieved from the
4 storage system.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first
2 controller device communicates with the storage system over a storage area network.

37. (canceled)

1 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first
2 controller device is located in a network switch device coupled to the data communication
3 network.

1 39. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering streaming data content to a
2 client device over a data communication network in response to a request for the data content
3 from the client device, the method comprising:

4 receiving, by a first controller device, a request sent by a first client device to a
5 server over the data communication network, the request identifying streaming data content
6 stored on a storage system, ~~wherein the first controller device and the server are coupled by the~~
7 ~~data communication network;~~

8 processing the request by the first controller device; and

9 ~~controlling~~ coordinating, by the first controller device, the delivery of the
10 requested streaming data ~~directly to the first client device over the data communication network~~
11 by both the first controller device and a second controller device, wherein the first controller
12 retrieves and delivers a first portion of the data to the client, and wherein the second controller
13 retrieves and delivers a second portion of the data to the client over a communication path that
14 does not include the first controller device.

1 40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the first controller
2 device is coupled to the storage system over a storage area network (SAN), wherein ~~controlling~~
3 coordinating includes:

4 retrieving, by the first controller device, a first portion of the streaming data
5 content from the storage system over the SAN; and

6 transferring the retrieved first portion of the data content directly to the ~~first~~ client
7 device over the data communication network from the first controller device.

1 41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, ~~further including sending~~
2 wherein the request is first sent to [[the]] a server by the client device.

1 42. (Original) The method of claim 41, further including notifying the server
2 that the request is being processed by the first controller device.

1 43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein controlling
2 includes:

3 transmitting a data request message from the first controller device to the second
4 controller device, wherein the data request message identifies the ~~first~~ client device and the data
5 content requested by the first client device, and wherein the second controller device is coupled
6 to the storage system over a storage area network (SAN);

7 retrieving, by the second controller device, ~~[[a]] the~~ second portion of the
8 streaming data content from the storage system over the SAN; and

9 transferring the second portion of the retrieved data content ~~directly~~ to the first
10 client device over the data communication network from the second controller device.

1 44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices are coupled by a communication bus.

1 45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the communication bus is a
2 PCI bus.

1 46. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first controller device is
2 located in a first network switch device coupled to the data communication network and wherein
3 the second controller device is located in a second network switch device coupled to the data
4 communication network.

1 47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the first and second
2 controller devices communicate over one of the data communication network and a back end
3 network.